

Southern Nash Middle School

STAFF NEWSLETTER

December 2012

One Team. One Goal. No Limits

Support Staff
Spotlight



Name: Ada Williams

Hometown: Castalia, N.C.

Alma Mater: Southern Nash Senior (1971)

Favorite Sports Team:
San Francisco 49ers

Favorite Author/Book: Daily Bread

Things You Are Proud Of: My husband, children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews and the students & staff team.

Something SNMS Might Not Know About You: I can draw. I love roosters. I am an ECU fan.

If You Could Listen To Only 5 Songs For The Rest Of Your Life, What Would Be On Your Playlist?

1. Girl of Fire
2. A Woman's Worth
3. Pretty Girl Rock
4. Shifting the Atmosphere
5. I Give Myself Away

What Educators are Blogging About...

Did you know that *Education Week* has a variety of free blogs that focus on everything from classroom best practices and technology to policy and research?

A teacher-focused blog titled, "Teaching Ahead: A Roundtable" is a joint effort between *Education Week* and the **Center for Teacher Quality** to highlight exemplar classrooms, innovative teachers and the future of the profession.

In November, guest bloggers discussed the future of educational reform based on the results of this year's most recent election.

"Teaching Ahead" keeps an extensive, easy-to-access archive. In March, contributing bloggers discussed the Common Core at length. Look back for some helpful reminders, tips and strategies for Common Core.



LOOK!

SAVE THE DATE!

Toy Drive
Dec. 18th

The Beta Club and Kids For Christ (KFC) are collecting new, unwrapped toys. All toys due by Tuesday Dec. 18th.

Band Concert
Dec. 17 & 18

Come out & support our band while enjoying an assortment of holiday music and cheer! Concerts begin at 6:30.

Holiday Party
Dec. 19th

Plan to be at the holiday celebration, after school on Wed. Dec. 19th, in the Media Center. Sign up at the front desk to bring a festive dish to share!

Engaging Underperforming Students

Edutopia / Cochrane Collegiate Academy, Charlotte, NC
Scan the QR for a student's perspective and sample lesson



Teachers at Cochrane Collegiate Academy developed a list of their top 10 best practices, and implement each practice in every lesson, every day.

1. **Essential Question:** What is the goal of the lesson? There is only one essential question per lesson, and students should be able to answer it by the end of that lesson.
2. **Activating Strategy:** An initial activity to get students involved by beginning to think about and make connections to the central theme of the lesson.
3. **Relevant Vocabulary:** Select only the words that are actively used consistently during the lesson. Require students to interact with the vocabulary throughout the lesson as well.
4. **Limited Lecture:** Limit lecture to no more than 15 minutes at one time, then plan an engaging activity that supports the lesson's central theme and/or essential question.
5. **Graphic Organizer:** (Thinking Maps in NRMS) Allow students to create a visual representation of material being learned or reviewed.

This is a two part series. Be sure to check back next month!

SHOUT
OUTS!

Shout Out to Mrs. Stanley
for stopping by my room
unannounced to help me
enter my grades for
report cards. She's
awesome!

Shout Out to the EC Staff. They
are a hard working group that
will help each other out when
needed.

Shout Out to Mr. Edel for
how much he helps me plan
for my 7th graders. I would
be in serious trouble if it
weren't for him!!!

Shout Out to all 8th grade ELA
& Science teachers who worked
together on the fracking unit.
It was great fun for all of us
to provide the lesson
information together. I believe
the kids enjoyed it too.

Shout Out to the 8th grade
science classes that visited the
campus stream. Students
conducted water quality tests
and examined macro-
invertebrates.

Special Shout Out to
Mrs. Williams for being a
great guide at the creek!



A LESSON THAT ROCKED!

Mrs. Hensley's class had debates on
hydraulic fracturing. Each student did
research for both arguments, and was then
assigned a position of pro or con for the debate.
All four classes did great, worked hard and
researched fantastic facts to support their
arguments. We hope to approach another topic this
year to be able to debate with one another.

LOOK!

Basketball

Monday 10th @ Parker
Thurs. 13th @ Nash Central
Monday 17th @ S. Edge.
Wed. 17th Home (S.Edge.)
Thurs. 20th Home (Edwards)
Mon. Jan. 7th Home (Red Oak)
Thurs. Jan. 10th @ Springfield

All Games Start at 4pm.

Wrestling

Monday 10th Home (Parker)
Thurs. 13th Home (NCMS)
Thurs. 20th Home (Edwards)
Thurs. Jan. 3rd Home (Martin)
Mon. Jan. 7th @ Red Oak

All Matches Start at 4pm.

Alt. Secret Santa

In lieu of a traditional secret
Santa, the Leadership Team opted to
create an optional alternative.
Instead of holiday knick-knacks &
candies, we would like to sponsor a
family in need. If you'd like to
participate, see Angel Richardson or
a Leadership member for details!